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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 6, and 20.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 as indicated below:

1. (Twice Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:

a support understructure;

a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means and a second interlocking means respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

a plurality of fasteners;

wherein said first interlocking means is adapted to receive said second interlocking means, thereby allowing adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein said first interlocking means and said second interlocking means further include openings defined therethrough; and

wherein said opening defined through said first interlocking means are of a different size than said opening defined through said second interlocking means to allow lateral and rotational motions between said interlocked adjacent seat modules.

- 3. (Twice Amended) An interlocking seating system comprising:
- a support understructure;
- a plurality of seat modules, each of said seat modules includes a body member having a first interlocking means and a second interlocking means respectively positioned on a first and an opposing second side of said body member; and,

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a plurality of fasteners;

wherein the interlocking means of a first seat module is adapted to receive the interlocking means of a second seat module, thereby allowing two adjacent seat modules to interlock and be secured to said support understructure by said fasteners inserted through said interlocked interlocking means;

wherein said plurality of seat modules comprises interior seat modules and aisle seat modules, said interlocking means of said interior seat modules comprise a tab and a blind rabbet, and said interlocking means of said aisle seat modules comprise two blind rabbets, said blind rabbets are adapted to interlock with said tabs; and

wherein said blind rabbets and said tabs further include openings defined therethrough, said openings defined through said tabs have a different size than said opening defined through said blind rabbets, thereby allowing lateral and rotational motions between said interlocked adjacent seat modules.



15. (Twice Amended) A seat module comprising:

a one-piece body member having a first and a second engagement member disposed at a first and an opposing second side of said body member, respectively;

said first and second engagement members further including openings therethrough for receiving fasteners;

wherein an engagement member of a first said seat module is adapted to receive an engagement member of a second said seat module, thereby allowing the interlocking and placement of said first and said second seat modules in a side by side relationship, to be secured to said support by fasteners through said openings;

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wherein said openings defined through said first engagement member comprises a front slot and a rear elongated slot wherein said rear elongated slot is longer than said front elongated slot; and wherein said openings defined through said second engagement member are apertures.

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16. (Amended) The seat module of claim 14 wherein said openings defined through said blind rabbets are apertures and said openings defined through said tabs are notches)

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18. (Amended) The seat module of claim 17 wherein said apertures further include counterbores adapted to receive heads of said fasteners.

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19. (Twice Amended) A seat module comprising:

a one-piece body member having a first and a second engagement member disposed at a first and an opposing second side of said/body member, respectively;

said first and second engagement members further including openings therethrough for receiving fasteners;

wherein an engagement member of a first said seat module is adapted to receive an engagement member of a second said seat module, thereby allowing the interlocking and placement of said first and said second seat modules in a side by side relationship, to be secured to a support by fasteners through said openings;

wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon; and

wherein each said body member further includes reinforcement means to provide added rigidity, a curved front, a curved upper surface, and a bottom having a concave surface formed

rigidity, a curved front, a constant of the second Amendment Response Serial No. 09/668,513
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B5 Conx therein and adapted to receive said curved upper surface when said curved upper surface is being deflected down by weight of an occupant; and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.

21. (Twice Amended) A seating system comprising:

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a support having a plurality of interior seat positions and first and second end seat, positions within a sitting row;

a plurality of interior seat modules adapted for placement on said interior seat positions and said first end seat position, each of said plurality of interior seat modules comprising a body member having a tab protruding from a first side and a blind rabbet recessed in a second side of said body member;

an aisle seat module adapted for placement on said second end seat position, comprising a body member having at least one blind rabbet recess in a side of said body member;

a plurality of fasteners for attaching said interior and aisle seat modules to said support; wherein said tabs and said blind rabbets further includes openings disposed therethrough for receiving said fasteners, said blind rabbets are adapted to receive said tabs whereby a seating row can be built by pivotably interlocking a plurality of said interior seat modules and capping said plurality of said interlocked interior seat modules with said aisle seat modules, and attaching said interlocked interior and aisle seat modules to said support by said fasteners through said openings; and

wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.

22. (Twice Amended) A seating system comprising:

a support having a plurality of interior seat positions and first and second end seat positions within a sitting row;

a plurality of interior seat modules adapted for placement on said interior seat positions and said first end seat position, each of said plurality of interior seat modules comprising a body member having a tab protruding from a first side and a blind rabbet recessed in a second side of said body member;

an aisle seat module adapted for placement on said second end seat position, comprising a body member having at least one blind rabbet recess in a side of said body member;

a plurality of fasteners for attaching said interior and aisle seat modules to said support; end caps adapted for placement at said end seat position for receiving plates having indicia thereon; and

wherein said tabs and said blind rabbets further includes openings disposed therethrough for receiving said fasteners;

wherein said blind rabbets are adapted to receive said tabs whereby a seating row can be built by interlocking a plurality of said interior seat modules and capping said plurality of said interlocked interior seat modules with said aisle seat modules; and

wherein said interlocked interior and aisle seat modules are attachable to said support by said fasteners through said openings.

wherein said body member provides a recessed area for receiving a plate having indicia thereon and wherein said recessed area is tilted upward.

A marked up version of the claims is attached hereto.

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